

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, and 16-21 are pending. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, and 16-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,523,026 to Gillis. Claims 2, 8, 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,523,026 to Gillis in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,276 to Komissarchik et al.

Reconsideration is requested. No new matter is added. The rejections are traversed. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-14 and 16-21 remain in the case for consideration.

In accordance with the paper dated March 7, 2006, Applicant requests that prosecution be resumed for this application. The Examiner and the Applicant are in agreement that if the specification amendments previously presented can be supported, then the claims are allowable over Gillis, with or without Komissarchik. The Examiner and the undersigned are also in agreement that U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/615,726 ("the '726 application") supports such language, and that the claims in the '726 application includes language that relies on this language. Applicant has amended the specification on the '726 application to explicitly recite support for the claim language in the '726 application and in this application. The '726 application has now been allowed, the issue fee has been paid, and the application should issue in due course. Therefore, as previously discussed, the claims in this application, which incorporates the '726 application, are properly supported.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, and 16-21 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,
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